

Listing of the Claims:

Below is a listing of all claims using strikethrough and underlining to show changes.

1. (currently amended) A messaging system comprising:

5 an interactive system for production and interchange of messages by users over a network;
an automated topic separator receiving user messages and separating messages according to diff
a user interface, coupled to said topic separator, for representing in a distinct way parts of messa
a time synchronizer for time stamping messages, the topic separator being responsive to said tim

10 2. (cancelled)

3. (original) The messaging system as in claim 1, wherein said user interface displays
messages in windows according to topic.

15 4. (original) The messaging system as in claim 1, wherein said user interface displays
messages in different colors according to topic.

5. (original) The messaging system as in claim 1, further comprising a security system to
verify a user's identity.

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6. (original) The messaging system as in claim 5, wherein said security system includes a
database of questions from which random questions are posed to a user and whereby
verification of validity of answers to posed questions is done by users of the system.

25 7. (previously presented) The messaging system as in claim 5, wherein said security
system includes a biometric module for verification of a user's identity.

8. (currently amended) A method of conducting a messaging session at a user's computer
between two or more users over a network comprising the steps of:

30 receiving a message over the network from a user;

automatically identifying a topic of the received message based on words used in the message;

determining if the topic of the received message has changed from a previous message;

5 identifying a time of a received message;

determining if a changed topic is a new topic using the time of the received message to determine whether the topic has changed or is a new topic;

determining if a changed topic is a new topic; and

if a new topic, opening a new window to display the received message.

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9. (original) The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 8, wherein if the topic of a received message has not changed, further comprising the step of displaying the received message in a currently opened window.

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10. (original) The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 8, wherein if a changed topic is not a new topic, further comprising the step of displaying the received message in a previously opened window.

11. (cancelled)

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12. (original) The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 8, further comprising the step of checking a user's identity.

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13. (previously presented) The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 12, wherein the step of checking a user's identity comprises the steps of asking the user random questions and evaluating the user's answers.

14. (original) The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 13, wherein the step of evaluating the user's answers is performed by another user.

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15. (original) The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 12, wherein the step of checking a user's identity is performed using biometrics.

16. (previously presented) The messaging system as in claim 1, wherein the messaging system 5 enables a subgroup of users to conduct a messaging session separately from other users of the messaging system.

17. (previously presented) The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 8, wherein a subgroup of users comprising at least two users conducts a messaging 10 session separately from other users.

18. (previously presented) The messaging system as in claim 1, wherein the automated topic separator is operable for indicating to the user when the topic of a message can not be decided by the topic separator.

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19. (previously presented) The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 8, wherein the topic of the received message can not be decided, and further comprising the step of indicating to the user that the topic of the received message could not be decided.

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